

CLAIMS:

1. A recording apparatus for recording an information on a recordable optical record carrier by irradiation of a light beam onto said record carrier for forming marks and lands representing said information along an information recording direction, comprising:

- a light source for generating a light beam,

5 - optical means for irradiating said light beam onto said record carrier,

wherein said optical means comprise means for influencing said light beam from said light source to said record carrier during recording of information by use of astigmatism so as to obtain a light beam having a substantial oval spot profile having a shorter axis in the information recording direction compared to the direction orthogonal thereto.

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2. A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for influencing the light beam are adapted for introduction of astigmatism into the light beam.

15 3. A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said means for influencing the light beam comprise a liquid crystal cell.

4. A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said liquid crystal cell has a cylindrical shape.

20 5. A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said means for influencing the light beam comprise a cylindrical lens.

25 6. A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for influencing the light beam comprise a focus control means for control of the focus position of the focal lines of the light beam having an intrinsic astigmatism such that a defocus is introduced during recording of information.

7. A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said focus control means are adapted for adding an offset to a focus error signal used for keeping the optical into focus during recording of information.

5 8. A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control means for control of said means for influencing the light beam by switching said means on or off by bringing said means into the light path during recording.

9. A method of recording an information on a recordable optical record carrier by
10 irradiation of a light beam through optical means onto said record carrier for forming marks and lands representing said information along an information recording direction, wherein the light beam from a light source to said record carrier during recording of information is influenced by making use of astigmatism so as obtain a light beam having a substantially oval spot profile having a shorter axis in the information recording direction compared to the
15 direction orthogonal thereto.

10. Computer program comprising computer program means for causing a computer to perform the steps of the method as claimed in claim 9 when said computer program is run on a computer.